

safe working conditions, the UFW led a worldwide grape boycott that helped secure farm workers a seat at the table in contract negotiations.

In 1963, Delores Huerta was successful at securing Aid for Dependent Families and disability insurance for farm workers in California. Delores Huerta's hard work and determination also paid off in 1975 when the California State Legislature enacted the Agricultural Labor Relations Act, which gave farm workers in California the right to organize and bargain for better pay and safer working conditions.

At the age of 82, Delores Huerta continues to fight for social justice, giving a voice to the working poor throughout the country. Through the Delores Huerta Foundation, a non-profit she established in 2002, Ms. Huerta is helping to train a new generation grassroots organizers who are committed to the same ideals and principles she has fought for throughout her lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, not only is Delores Huerta a role model to a new generation of civil rights activists, but she remains an inspiration to those who grew up in the '60s and '70s, myself included.

I urge my colleagues in joining me to congratulate Delores Huerta for being awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

TRIBUTE TO THE ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF THE VALLEY OF SYRACUSE

HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of the Valley of Syracuse upon the occasion of celebrating 150 years of service to the Syracuse, New York community and surrounding areas.

The Scottish Rite of the Valley of Syracuse operates within the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America and is comprised of four separate Bodies: Central City Lodge of Perfection, Central City Council Princes of Jerusalem, Central City Chapter of Rose Croix, and Central City Consistory. Each of these four Central City Bodies has been active in Syracuse and nearby areas since 1862.

Scottish Rite Masons are a diverse group of Brothers who come from all walks of life, cultures, religious backgrounds, and careers.

Today, with 750 members in the Valley of Syracuse, The Scottish Rite of Free Masonry supports Schizophrenia research, provides college scholarships to members and their children, and supports many charities and organizations, particularly the Children's Dyslexia Center of Central New York.

It is important that we recognize organizations like the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of the Valley of Syracuse for their dedicated service to the community as well as their rich history and involvement in the shaping of the State of New York and the United States of America.

It is with privilege that I pause in my legislative deliberations to congratulate and thank the Scottish Rite of the Valley of Syracuse on their 150th Anniversary.

HONORING JAMES L. LITTLEJOHN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Ninety years ago on May 16, 1922, a tenacious man of God was born in St. Anns Jamaica West Indies; and

Whereas, Mr. James L. Littlejohn, born to Georgianna and Nehemiah Littlejohn, grew up in Jamaica where he met and married his sweetheart Millicent and to their union two children were born, Barbara and Gilbert; and

Whereas, Mr. Littlejohn has shared his time and talents as a Husband, Father and Motivator, giving the citizens of Jamaica, England and the United States a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all advancing the lives of others, through service at Brooklyn Baptist Church (1975) in New York and since 2002 at Peace Baptist Church in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, Mr. Littlejohn has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mr. Littlejohn along with his family and friends are celebrating a remarkable milestone, his 90th Birthday, we pause to acknowledge a man who is a cornerstone in our community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mr. Littlejohn on his birthday and to wish him well and recognize him for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim May 16, 2012 as Mr. James L. Littlejohn Day in Georgia's 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

TRIBUTE TO DAN AGUILAR

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise to pay tribute to a true American hero, Dan Aguilar of Palm City, Florida. Dan has been awarded the Silver Plaque International Alpine Solidarity Award, given to individuals who have risked their lives to save others in dangerous mountain accidents. Dan is a well-known mountain rescuer who deserves both the admiration and the praise of this body.

Dan grew up in Dallas, Texas, where he resided for 18 years. After graduating from Crozier Tech High School, he served in the US Army for four years. Upon returning to the United States, he moved to Vail, Colorado where he began his now renowned career in mountain rescue. Dan's love for the mountains has seen him travel the globe and conquer the most dangerous alpine trails in the world. What's more, his mountain climbing adventures have taken him to Mexico, Ecuador, Alaska, and Argentina. But it is not his accomplishments as a climber or mountain hiker that have earned him this prestigious award, but rather it is his courage as a mountain rescuer.

In the early 1980's, Dan suffered the crushing loss of a dear friend that completely changed his view of climbing. For some time he was unable to even fathom climbing again, but this experience eventually drove him to the line of work that has made him a living legend. He has been a member of the Vail Mountain Rescue Group in the nearly three decades since.

For Dan, saving the life of another seems to come naturally. In fact, this award is not the first time he has received recognition for his devotion to helping others. He was also awarded the Mountain Rescue Association's Outstanding Individual Service Award. In all, it is estimated that Dan has been involved in around 500 different rescue missions since his involvement with Mountain Rescue. His advanced rescue skills have also been utilized in rescues on Mt. Rainier in Washington, the Pamirs in Russia, and the Aconcagua in South America.

Dan's dedication and incredible compassion to help others have earned him a legendary reputation and the admiration of people around the world. According to Tim Cochrane, a fellow member of Mountain Rescue, in an article in The Vail Daily by Tamara Miller, "Aguilar is the first volunteer rescuer in North America to win the award."

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the State of Florida and the U.S. Congress, I congratulate Dan on this distinguished and well-deserved award. He is a great American who deserves our gratitude and praise.

Dan, your community, State, and Nation are proud of you.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR JOEL OSTEEEN

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it was indeed an honor to have Pastor Joel Osteen serve as a guest Chaplin to open the house on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 with prayer for members of the House and for our nation. I also take this opportunity to wish Pastor Osteen, his wife Victoria, their family and entire organization well as they prepare and implement a major outpouring of religious favor this week in Washington DC area.

The ability to fill the DC Stadium with people for religious praise and worship is indeed leadership and I commend Rev. Joel Osteen for being able to provide a great deal of that.

TRIBUTE TO SHELDON KOTZIN

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service of a